

News Release



**Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WERTHEIM NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR REGULATED DEER HUNT**

The Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge in Suffolk County, N.Y., is accepting applications through July 28, 2006, for a limited entry, controlled deer hunt for the 2006-2007 season. The refuge offers these hunting opportunities for a second year as part of its program to manage an overabundance of white-tailed deer.

Licensed hunters may pick up applications at the Refuge Office at 360 Smith Road, Shirley, N.Y., Monday through Friday between 8 A.M. and 4 P.M., or download an application from the refuge's website: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/longislandrefuges>. Applications are also available at the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Office License Counter, Building 40, SUNY Stony Brook.

Each application must be accompanied by a non-refundable \$10.00 application fee, payable by check or money order, with the exception of the youth hunt (no fee). Hunters will be eligible for only one archery permit and one shotgun permit. Hunters may only submit one application for the archery hunt and one application for the shotgun hunt. Youth hunters may submit one application for the youth hunt and one application for the regular archery hunt. Applications must be postmarked or returned to the refuge office by July 28, 2006. Hunters selected in a random public drawing on August 14 will be notified the week of August 21. Hunters will be allowed to take up to three deer, however hunters must take two antlerless deer before taking an antlered deer.

The youth archery hunt will occur on Saturday, November 4, 2006. Regular archery hunting opportunities will be available during the following periods: November 5 – 7, December 2 – 4, and December 15 – 17, 2006. Shotgun hunting opportunities will be available on January 10 and 11, 2007. Thirty youth hunting permits will be issued. Forty-six permits will be issued for each archery hunt period and 18 permits will be issued for the shotgun hunt period. To help ensure a successful and safe hunt, all hunters must complete and pass a written orientation test by September 15, 2006, that will cover important information on refuge regulations, hunt zones, safety, and responsible hunting. To help ensure public safety, the refuge will be closed to the general public during the specific hunt periods.

Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1947, is located along the Carmans River in Suffolk County, New York. The refuge protects one of the last undeveloped estuaries on Long Island. The founding purpose of the Refuge was to preserve habitat for migratory birds. Since that time, management programs have been expanded to other objectives, such as the protection of federally-listed endangered and threatened species, the conservation of native flora and fauna, and the provision of wildlife-dependent public uses.

For additional information, please view our website <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/longislandrefuges> or contact the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex Office at 631-286-0485.